## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /158 W

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R 081005Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7584
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 5617

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, PORG, PK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PAKISTANI CANDIDACY FOR IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

REF: A) STATE 143360, B) VIENNA 5016, C) TEHRAN 5434

- 1. PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT RAISED POSSIBLE PAK CANDIDACY WITH US HERE; WE WILL ALSO USE LINE PARA 1 REF (A) IF THEY GET AROUND TO IT.
- 2. SEVERAL FACTORS OCCUR TO US AS POSSIBLE MOTIVATIONS FOR A GOP DECISION -- IF IT HAS BEEN MADE -- TO SEEK CHAIRMANSHIP OF IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT THIS TIME:
- -- MUNIR KHAN HIMSELF COULD BE THE SPARK PLUG FOR THIS IDEA; IT WOULI MEAN MUCH TO HIM AT THIS POINT OF HIS CAREER IN BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL TERMS.

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-- OTHER THAN THIS HIGHLY PERSONAL MOTIVATION, GOP DECISION COULD BE SEEN HERE AS FURTHERING PAKISTAN'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE AND POSITION AS A TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, THIRD WORLD NATION WHICH IS DETERMINED -- DESPITE OBSTACLES PUT IN ITS WAY BY THE NUCLEAR 'HAVES' -- TO PURSUE AN AMBITIOUS AND INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM. -- MUNIR KHAN'S PRESENCE AT THE HELM OF THE IAEA BOARD COULD ALSO BE EXPLOITED (IN GOP EYES) TO ADVANCE A STRONG THIRD WORLD VIEW URGING SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR THE NUCLEAR 'HAVE NOTS' AND PERMITTING PAKISTAN TO ASSUME SPOKESMAN/LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG THE 'HAVE NOTS.'

-- REGIONAL CONSIDERATIONS MAY ALSO PLAY A ROLE, ESPECIALLY IN TERMS OF WHATEVER INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE MAY BE DERIVED FOR PAKISTAN -- ALONG WITH INDIA AND IRAN -- AS A REGIONAL NUCLEAR POWER. INDIA HAS ALREADY SERVED ON THE BOARD; THAT IS ALMOST REASON ENOUGH FOR THE GOP TO WANT TO PUSH ITS OWN CANDIDACY. (WE WOULD AGREE WITH VIENNA THAT GOP WOULD NOT 'BUCK' IRAN FOR THE SEAT IF DR. ETEMAD DECIDES TO CONTEST. IN THAT CASE, GOP WOULD

PRESUMABLY ATTEMPT TO USE ITS SUPPORT OF AN ETEMAD CANDIDACY TO SEEK ASSURANCES OF TEHRAN'S SUPPORT FOR A PAK CANDIDACY NEXT TIME AROUND.)

3. CASTING A LONG SHADOW OVER THIS SUBJECT, AS IT DOES OVER ALL THINGS NUCLEAR IN PAKISTAN, IS THE NUCLEAR REPROCESSING ISSUE, WHICH REMAINS UNRESOLVED. IF THE ISSUE REMAINS UNRESOLVED, OR IF THE FRENCH CARRY OUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRACT, PAK CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS COULD PROVIDE THE GOP, THROUGH MUNIR KHAN, WITH A FORUM IN WHICH TO ADVANCE ITS OWN VIEWS ON REPROCESSING AND TO RALLY SUPPORT FOR THESE VIEWS AS WELL. IF THE REPROCESSING ISSUE IS RESOLVED BY FRENCH CANCELLATION OF THE CONTRACT, THE CHAIRMANSHIP COULD THEN BE USEFUL AS A WAY PERHAPS OF PROVIDING SOLACE TO THE PAKISTANIS DENIED THEIR OWN REPROCESSING PLANT BUT STILL ABLE TO PLAY IN THE 'BIG LEAGUES' AS A COUNTRY REPUTED FOR ITS NUCLEAR EXPERTISE AND INTENT ON A NUCLEAR POWER FUTURE FOR ITSELF.

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